has done some pioneering work in order to control the monkey menace in and around Shimla and the Municipal Corporation of Ahmedabad has made efforts to control the stray dog population in Ahmedabad city by way of sterilization of stray dogs through NGO.

Death of elephants at Lakhari Sanctuary

1071. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of death of two elephants after the "Operation Gaja" at Lakhari Sanctuary in Gajapathi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent these deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per report of the Government of Orissa, death of one elephant took place after two of them were captured and translocated from Andhra Pradesh and released in Lakhari Sanctuary in Orissa. The enquiry conducted by the officials of the Government of Orissa ascribed the death due to trauma caused to the elephant in the course of capture and translocation.

(c) Since then the process of capture and transportation of elephants has been suspended.

Elephant Menace

1072. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 people including a journalist were killed by wild elephants in Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Wild Life Board adopted any steps to prevent those elephants destroying lives and property of people; and

(c) the mechanism that was adopted to control elephant menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per reports of the State Government, 10 people have been killed by wild elephants in Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to control elephant menace.

Menace of Stray dogs etc.

1073. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that under Article 48 of the Constitution, the State *inter-alia* is required to protect and safeguard the forests and wildlife, especially in preventing the menace of stray cattle;

(b) if so, whether any effective law has been made to prevent the owners of bovine animals including cattle and cows, dogs, etc. from being let loose, thereby harming the citizens by reckless "bites" by dogs; and